

Uncertainty of Psychological and Spatial Identity: A Study on the Novel of Bharti Mukherjee's Wife and Jasmine

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Abstract

This review assess Dr. Rajib Bhaumik's research on diasporic writer Bharti Mukherjee's wife and Jasmine. Diaspora refers to those people who live in other countries leaving their birth place and their writings still revolves around their homeland. The diasporic mood refers to the transcultural restlessness of the writers. The transcultural narratives possess a serious challenge to the cultural stability of the metropolitan centers.

Diasporic situation is typically a site of hybridity which questions fixed identities based on monocentric essentialism.

Rajib Bhaumik states in his words "*The diaspora experience as I intend it here is defined, not by essence or purity, but by the recognition of a necessary heterogeneity and diversity; by a conception of "identity" which lives with and through, not despite, difference; by hybridity. Diaspora identities are those which are constantly producing and reproducing themselves anew, through transformation and difference.* Different responses to migration, whether as an essential and inevitable phenomenon of globalization or a transformative

consequence of political persecution, ethnic cleansing or natural disasters are articulated in literature produced in places where diasporic communities exist.”

Basically, the diasporic novelists are migrants. They carry their homeland and birthplace in their heart and mind. The communication between the host and the immigrant cultures seem to create complication in translation. This conflict give rise to new questions, restlessness and curiousness. This amalgamation of delineated patterns of cultural, political and geographical difference bring forth the need to re-explore the ways of survival.

In *Wife*, Ms. Bharti exposes and challenges the hardships of multicultural society imposed on an immigrant or a minority. In the postcolonial era, United states has emerged as base for multicultural and multilingual people from different parts of the world trying to find their future, lifestyle and good earning, especially the third world countries like India, China, Africa etc. The novel *Wife* depicts the America as a signifier of culture defined by an aesthetic of multiculturalism that is expressive of ethnic difference and segregation. The forced difference, dissimilarity, solitude and seclusion eventually destroys the protagonist, Dimple. Whereas the character of Jasmine justifies the displacement from the tradition bound India for America, which represents transcultural chemistry of transformation and change.

Rajib Bhaumik has researched the novels *Wife* and *Jasmine* and the its characters quite impressively, digging deep into their thoughts, feelings, and mindful conflicts. There are two characters, Tara and Dimple. Tara returns to homeland, Calcutta whereas Dimple migrates to America.

Every narrative of diasporic writers is to some extent is a biography as it includes a personal story dealing with the same polyglossic communities where “self” represents the voice of these communities. Diasporic literature is a self experience in the fiction or poetry section

which is somewhat diasporic in real life. The diasporic work represents authors' own experience of dislocation and pain experienced in the process.

In the words of Rajib himself "*Her characters too straddle two worlds and are pulled in two directions between home and location, confused in the delusion of alternative realities. In Jasmine, the protagonist's migrancy is located in cross-cultural context where dislocation and rearrangement of existence finally lead to assimilation of the contraries. Jasmine is perhaps the most representative of Mukherjee's novels, and in contrast to Wife the most accomplished work about being an exile*".

Conclusion

Overall, the research paper written by Rajib seems quite interesting though long sentences and multiple phrases makes you the read the context twice to understand but I would say that it is one of the good works I have read and reviewed. I find this paperwork supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. Grammatically, the research is well read and proofed. Contextually, this work relates well to the real characters and Bharti mukherjee's thought process and her writings. It justifies the impressions, feelings and behaviors of the diaspora writers.

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